

Section 7 Analysis and Synthesis

“Inventory and analysis is a critical first step in greenway planning: it lays the foundation for your plan.”⁷¹ The inventory of significant sites provided much information pertaining to areas within the community that could be connected by greenways and trails. These opportunities needed to be analyzed and evaluated to determine whether there was sufficient merit in connecting them versus stand-alone destinations. Some conceptual trail locations were removed from the map for reasons of practicality or lack of community support. These circumstances may change over time and should be considered in future Greenway Master Plan updates.

Trail corridors locations were based upon the following:

- Corridors identified in the 1993 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan
- Corridors identified on the 1998 Regional Bikeway Plan for Multiuse Trails
- Citizen comments, phone calls, and requests during public meetings since 1997
- Citizen comments during focus group meetings
- Map making exercises by citizens and Steering Committee members
- Staff input

7.1 Conceptual Greenway Map

The Easement Map, Land Use Map, and the Park and Facility Inventory Map were evaluated by the Steering Committee to determine the practical nature for each trail recommendation and to synthesize the most relevant data into one Greenway Master Plan Map. This map is considered conceptual because land use and property ownership change over time, citizen interest may influence a County change in corridor prioritization, and dedicated funding mechanisms may disappear. The conceptual character of the map reflects the flexible nature of the plan.

Several methods of depicting greenway corridors were prepared after much discussion and input. Hard lines were viewed as most beneficial to aid future planning and site plan approvals for acquiring easements and development proffers, but imposing hard lines on a page gave the appearance of land taking. The consensus of the group determined the use of representational lines would provide “hardness” to the line while at the same time assuming flexibility in implementing a final corridor strategy.

7.2 Suitability Studies, Opportunity and Constraints

Evaluation of the data is accomplished through suitability studies outlining the opportunities and constraints for the proposed greenway corridor. Evaluation criteria include environmental studies for rare and threatened plants and animals, historical properties, grading and drainage, physical obstructions, incompatible adjacent property uses, local support, and financial feasibility. Smaller trail sections typically have a narrow scope and sphere of influence, but are easier to allocate funding and implement. Long trail sections require a much longer planning duration, especially if wetlands are involved. Long term management plans for maintenance and operation are essential for the continued success of the greenway or trail facility. The more detailed the studies are, the more successful any group or agency will be in completing the trail. A comprehensive Greenway Inventory Checklist can be found in the book *Greenways*, p. 28-30.

⁷¹ Greenways, Charles Flink and Robert Searns, in partnership with the Conservation Fund, 1993, p.26.

